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TUESDAY, MAY 23, 1903.

WEATHER BULLETIN.

WASHINGTON, May 22, For Lower Michigan—Showers; cooler; gales, becoming northwest.

DEATH PENALTIES.

Conscientious advocates of the reformation of the death penalty do not contend that its application will completely stop the killing of human beings. Murder will be committed so long as human nature continues to assert itself. No law can be enacted which will curb passion or destroy the desire for revenge. Many murders are committed in the heat of passion at a time when rage or jealousy may be so intense that the certainty of life imprisonment for the delivery of the fatal blow is no deterrent but rather an incentive. If the death penalty will prevent one such murder it will prove to be a humane and merciful law. It is rare indeed that a person accused of crime, committed in the heat of passion, suffers the extreme penalty. In fact the laws of most states define such a crime to be manslaughter, which is always punishable by imprisonment; therefore it is obvious the death penalty can neither add nor take from its character.

The death penalty is intended to reach intentional, not accidental murders. It does not contemplate the revival of barbaric cruelty. It seeks to remove from the possibility of doing harm the heartless monsters who study, scheme, premeditate and deliberate the barbarous butchery of women and children, of innocent fathers and mothers, of trusting friends and relatives. To strangle such devils is no barbarity. It is the performance of a divine duty.

Of the forty-four states of the union, forty punish premeditated murder by death. In Europe the death penalty has been revoked in Holland, Roumania, part of the cantons of Switzerland and other small principalities. The death penalty is in force in England, Germany, Russia, Spain, France, Belgium, Sweden, Italy and all the principal small countries. It is impossible to believe that all these states and most enlightened foreign governments are adepts and abettors of what is termed in Michigan "a revival of barbarity."

Frequent reference is made to New York's experience with the death penalty. It is said that there is a prospect it will be done away with. No such information can be obtained from New York newspapers. A revision of sentiment followed the experimental and cruelly inhuman torture inflicted upon Kemmer by the electric current; but there was no widespread demand for the abolition of the death penalty. There is none now. Since the electrocution of Carlisle Harris not a single murder has been committed in New York. How many murders have been committed in Michigan since Latimer's escape?

OUR AMBASSADOR.

When the last congress slipped a section into the diplomatic appropriation bill empowering the president to appoint ambassadors to powers which might send such officers to Washington, it excited very little discussion for there was no prospect of its immediate operation. The idea originated with Hay and was the first man to receive the distinguished honor.

The American people generally look upon it as a flimsy innovation, although the constitution specifically provides for just such an office. But ambassadors have not hitherto been appointed by our government for the reason that ambassadors are supposed to be the personal representatives of their sovereigns, and a sovereign is a luxury Uncle Sam long since decided to dispense with.

The excuse for this innovation in the diplomatic service is the alleged injury and insult to this republic resulting from the fact that ministers are out-ranked in formal court etiquette by ambassadors. A personal representative of a petty potentate, it is alleged, takes precedence of the minister of this great and powerful country. Our ministers, it is said, and especially their wives and daughters, have suffered severely from this anomaly, and it is suggested that the change which will insure for them the recognition and honor to which they are entitled.

In commenting on this allegedly unnecessary piece of legislation, the Weekly Review says that it did not seem wise to propose that we should establish our superiority to a nation far more conspicuous with the traditions and principles of democracy. Our diplomatic service might be reformed altogether, without the slightest inconvenience to anybody except office-seekers and ambitious politicians. Our business men would be transcended in less expensive and more

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